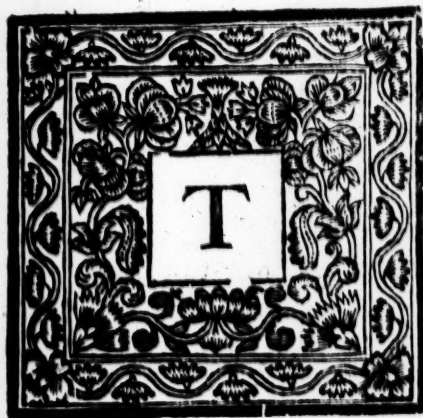


MEMORIAL

CONCERNING

The STATE of the *Highlands and Islands* of SCOTLAND.



THE Highlands and Islands of *Scotland* are of very great Extent, and tho' divided into Parishes, yet these Parishes are so exceeding large, being some 40, and many 20 Miles in Length, and most of them so separated by Lakes, Rivers, and impassable Mountains and Marishes, that the People cannot possibly attend Gospel-Ordinances in their Churches, especially in the Winter Season, nor can their Ministers be so frequently with them, as is necessary for their suitable Edification and Instruction.

As the unhappy Situation of these Countries deprives those that are more advanced in Years, and of greater Strength of Body, of the Means of Instruction, so it much more is an Obstruction to the Education of their Children, in Religion and Virtue; for, as one Minister cannot suffice such Parishes, far less can one School, for which, our Law only makes Provision.

THO' many in those Countries, who have had the Advantage of Education, are Persons of Honour, Probity, and good Affection to the Government, yet, by Reason of the foresaid unhappy Circumstances of these Places, the Reformation from Popery has never effectually reached some of them; yea, there remain Vestiges of the old Heathenish Customs and Superstitions among them, but especially Popish Idolatry and Superstition continues with many, and gross Ignorance and Prophanity with most of them: And this joined with their Neighbourhood to, and Identity in Language with the Native *Irish*, makes them to be of the same Mind, and to pursue the same Interests, both as to Religious and Civil Respects, and those altogether inconsistent with the Safety of our present happy Constitution; for they depend upon the Pope, as the Head of the Church; upon a Popish Pretender, as their lawful Sovereign; and upon Foreign Popish Powers, as the main Strength of their Hopes and Expectations.

THESE People being divided into so many Clans or Tribes, and each Tribe generally of the same Surname, living together under the same Head or Chieftain, who is their Superior and Overlord of their Lands, and thereby has a Jurisdiction Civil and Criminal over the Persons and Estates, both of them and their Tenants, they have them absolutely in their Power, and under a slavish and unlimited Subjection; and the poorer Sort amongst them, by Reason of their Ignorance, Laziness and Indolence, having no just Notions of Religion, Virtue or Civil Government, do blindly follow their Chieftains and Landlords in whatever they propose to them, without asking Questions: Hence have arisen the many Robberies and Depredations committed by them upon His Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects in the Neighbouring Lower Countries. From this Source have flowed the frequent Rebellions that have been moved by them, to the endangering of the Protestant Religion and Succession, and the Civil Liberties of *Britain*: For, at the happy Revolution, the Army under the Command of the late Viscount of *Dundee*, did chiefly consist of the Popish and Jacobite Clans; these Clans were the Strength and Sinews of the late wicked and unnatural Rebellion; it was from them, that the *Spainards*, in their late Attempt of a second Rebellion, drew their chief Hopes, and looked for their main Assistance, and in that View, landed their Troops at *Glenshiel* in the Heart of their Countries; and it will be from them, until Methods be fallen upon to civilize and instruct them, and extirpate the *Irish* Language from amongst them, that *Great Britain* will always be in most evident Danger.

FOR, as these People will never fail to join with Foreign Popish Powers, to advance the Interests they have espoused; so they always have been, and infallibly will be Instruments and Tools in the Hands of those, who have a Design to enslave or embroil the *British* Nation: These were the People, called, *The Highland Host*, that before the Revolution were brought down to the Low-Countries in Time of Peace for that Purpose. And at other Times, the Chieftains of that People have been encouraged to be in Readiness to serve such Purposes, as were then in View, some of them have very lately, oftner than once, adventured to make Attacks upon, and kill Part of His Majesty's Forces, when going about the Execution of their Duty in their Country; and they will still be dangerous, and never want Means, while in their present Circumstances, to do Mischief: For, notwithstanding the Pains taken by the Government to disarm them, they are still well armed, by Supplies from Abroad, sent them on Purpose to put them in Case to encourage and support foreign Invasions, which it is not possible to prevent by any Naval Power, because of the Wideness of their Country, and the many convenient Harbours and Landing-Places that are on their Coasts: But if those People were once brought to be well Affected to the Government, they might, by driving away their Cattle to the Mountains, upon the Emergent of an Invasion, leave the Invaders to starve, and thereby save much Treasure to the Nation, and prevent the Effusion of Blood.

MANY Endeavours have been used, and much Money has been bestowed by the Civil Government, when under the best Administration, to civilize and reduce those People, by planting Garisons, and Quartering of Forces amongst them; but, to evident Experience, all has been to very small Purpose: For no sooner is such outward Force removed, but those People return to follow their former wicked Inclinations, as Occasions offer.

BUT the Government has, of late, made some Advances towards Means of another Nature, which, if vigorously prosecuted, will, in Process of Time, unquestionably, by the Blessing of God, bring about the desired End; and that is, the instructing and training up of that poor, ignorant and deluded People in the Knowledge of the Principles of the Reformed *Protestant* Religion, and of Virtue: For, were their Judgment and Consciences rightly informed, these People would soon throw off the Yokes, which those, who now usurp unlimited Authority over them, have laid upon them; especially when they shall come to deserve and feel the Benefit of Protection from the Government.

IN Order to this, Her late Majesty Queen *Anne* having been graciously pleased, by Her Letter Patent, to erect a SOCIETY in *Scotland*, for propagating Christian Knowledge, they have, upon the Interest